CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The below listing of claims replaces all prior version and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a bath sponge, the method comprising:

manipulating each of a plurality of discrete lengths of flexible mesh-netting tube so that each mesh-netting tube is formed into a band, the act of manipulating comprising at least partially rolling each mesh-netting tube so that each tube has a substantially doughnut shaped configuration, each band bounding a central opening;

adjacently positioning each of the bands so that at least a portion of the central opening of each band is aligned along a longitudinal axis; and

securing each of the aligned bands together at two spaced apart locations so as to produce a substantially spherical sponge.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, further comprising folding each mesh-netting tube over itself at least once prior to rolling.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the act of adjacently positioning each of the bands comprises stretching each band over a support structure.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the act of adjacently positioning each of the bands comprises stretching each band over a pair of spaced apart posts.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the act of securing comprises using separate cords to tie the bands together at the two spaced apart locations.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, further comprising positioning a fastening device on at least one of the cords so as to keep the cord in place.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising positioning an object within a central pocket formed within the spherical sponge.

9. (Original) A method for manufacturing a bath sponge, the method comprising:

at least partially rolling each of a plurality of discrete lengths of flexible mesh-netting tube so that each mesh-netting tube is formed into a discrete substantially doughnut shaped band, each band bounding a central opening;

stretching each band on a support structure so that the central opening of each band is at least partially aligned;

securing each of the bands together at a first location;

securing each of the bands together at a second location substantially opposite the first location; and

releasing the stretched bands from the support structure so as to produce a substantially spherical bath sponge.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, further comprising folding at least one of the mesh-netting tubes over itself at least once prior to rolling.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the act of stretching each band on a support structure comprises stretching each band over a pair of spaced apart posts.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the act of securing each of the bands together at a first location comprises tying a line around each of the bands at the first location.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the act of securing each of the bands together at a first location comprises:

passing a cord around each of the bands at the first location; and

mounting a fastening device on the cord so as to hold the cord in position.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 9, further comprising positioning an object within a central pocket formed within the spherical sponge.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the object is soap, a toy, or a stuffed animal.

16. (Currently Amended) A bath sponge comprising a plurality of bands each having a substantially doughnut shaped configuration, each band bounding a central opening and being comprised of a flexible mesh-netting material, each band being secured together at a first location and a spaced apart second location so that the bands form a substantially spherical configuration with the central opening of each band forming a portion of a central pocket.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A bath sponge as recited in claim 16, wherein each band comprises an elongated mesh-netting tube that has been manipulated into a band.

19. (Original) A bath sponge as recited in claim 16, further comprising an object disposed within the central pocket.

20. (Original) A bath sponge as recited in claim 16, wherein the plurality of bands comprises four or more discrete bands.

21. (New) A method for manufacturing a bath sponge, the method comprising:

manipulating each of a plurality of discrete lengths of flexible mesh-netting tube so that each mesh-netting tube is formed into a band, each band bounding a central opening;

adjacently positioning each of the bands so that at least a portion of the central opening of each band is aligned along a longitudinal axis;

securing each of the aligned bands together at two spaced apart locations so as to produce a substantially spherical sponge having a central pocket; and

positioning soap, a toy, or a stuffed animal within the central pocket.

22. (New) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the soap, toy or stuffed animal is positioned within the central pocket so as to be freely disposed within the central pocket and not connected to the sponge.

23. (New) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the soap, toy or stuffed animal is connected to the spherical sponge by a cord.